

Applicants submit the following to provide the clarification requested by the Examiner:

Clarification and differentiation of "PANEL" and "BAND"

An image is split into panels and an encoder is assigned to each panel (page 1, lines 25-26). Consequently, a panel is defined as a part of the image being processed by an encoder, which is specific to this panel (page 2, line 35).

When referring to figures 1, 2 and 3, we can see that an encoder is dedicated to a portion of image corresponding to bold lines. This portion is a panel corresponding respectively to a horizontal band, to a vertical band or to $1/6^{\text{th}}$ of the image. One or more panels constitute, over the length of the image, a horizontal band of the image (page 1, lines 26-27).

In other words, a horizontal band is a horizontal succession of panels over the length of the image.

In figure 1, a panel expands on the length of the image and consequently a horizontal band corresponds to a panel.

In figure 2, a horizontal band corresponds to the succession of the 6 panels, consequently to an image.

In figure 3, a horizontal band corresponds to three panels, consequently to half an image.

Relationship between "SLICES", "ROWS", "PANELS" and "BANDS"

Figure 3 represents a splitting of the image into 6 panels. An encoder is dedicated to each panel. The 3 upper panels constitute, over the length of the image, a horizontal band of the image. Panel n° 1 corresponds to slices 1.1 to 34.1. Slice m.n. corresponds to the m^{th} row in the image coded by the n^{th} encoder (page 3, lines 3-7). Slice m.n. belongs to the n^{th} panel.

A panel is made up of slices, for example slices 1.2 to 34.2 for panel 2 in figure 3. And the horizontal succession of slices, over the length of the image, makes up a row (see page 2, line 33 to page 3 line 2). Consequently, a horizontal band, over the length of the image, is made up of one row or a vertical succession of rows of macroblocks, for example

rows 1 to 34 in figure 3, rows 1 to 68 in figure 2 or rows 1 to x, which correspond to slices 1 to x, in figure 1.

When choosing the configuration in figure 1, slice 1 to slice x belong to the first panel, which corresponds here to a band.

In configuration given in figure 2, each row is split into 6 slices and slice 1.1 to slice 68.1 belong to the first vertical band which is, in this configuration, the first panel.

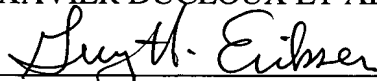
In configuration in figure 3, slices 1.1 to 34.1 belong to the first panel.

Reconsideration is requested. Having provided the Examiner with the requested clarification, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, Applicants request that the Examiner contacts the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6807, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled, at which time any remaining issues may be expeditiously addressed or otherwise disposed of.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are now due. If, however, any fees are due, please charge them to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER DUCLOUX ET AL.

By:

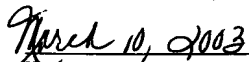

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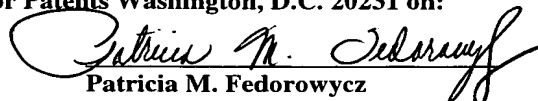
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March 10, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment and response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 on:


Date


Patricia M. Fedorowycz